



# Primary Care: The Deciding Factor in the Future of America's Health

*The United States spends twice as much on our health care per person than any other developed nation. Yet our health outcomes remain behind those of our peers. We can't afford to wait any longer to deliver a health care system that prioritizes Americans' health. That system should be built on primary care.*

## PRIMARY CARE 101:

Primary care can be defined as on-going, **integrated, accessible** health care services delivered by a physician or primary care team **accountable for addressing all personal health care needs.**

Primary care patients are seen by a consistent physician or primary care team who can **proactively and comprehensively address all of a patient's health care needs**, as well as **refer patients to sub-specialists** when needed. Patients form a **sustaining relationship** with their health care team, helping to **prevent health issues before they arise**, track medical history, and **improve patient outcomes** across a **long-term span** of care.

Primary Care	vs.	On-demand / Other Health Care
<i>Comprehensive, preventive, and acute care</i>		<i>Typically acute care that address illnesses/conditions after they have developed</i>
<i>Establishes sustained doctor-patient relationships</i>		<i>May see care as a one-off transaction</i>
<i>Engages with all personal health care needs</i>		<i>May specialize in only a subset of care needs</i>
<i>Personalizes patient care based on deeper, long-term understanding of a patient's medical history</i>		<i>May not track patients beyond the transaction</i>



### *key point:*

For every dollar that is invested in primary care, the health care system realizes **\$13 in savings** in other services.

## INVESTING IN PRIMARY CARE:

*Many of the challenges American health care faces are grounded in the simple fact that, for decades, the U.S. has underinvested in and underprioritized primary care.*

While primary care accounts for 35% of health care visits in America, it only receives about 5% of all health care expenditure in our nation.<sup>1</sup>

*Research suggests access to a regular primary care physician is associated with higher rates of preventive care and thus lower rates of preventable emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and enables more efficient use of sub-specialists.<sup>2</sup>*

And for every dollar that is invested in primary care, the health care system realizes \$13 in savings in other services.<sup>3</sup>

*Primary care is the only component of the health care system where increased supply results in better patient outcomes and reduced overall health care costs for all stakeholders, including patients.<sup>4</sup>*

## OUR COALITION:

*Primary Care for America is a coalition focused on educating policymakers and health policy influencers about the value of comprehensive, continuous and coordinated primary care. Its formation serves as a commitment to our continued effort to help improve the wellbeing of the individuals, families and communities that we proudly serve.*